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The Eastern Shore campus at Princess Anne had diverse affiliations and several names before becoming the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) in 1970. The institution was founded in 1886 as the Delaware Conference Academy for Negroes, under the general control of Centenary Bible Institute in Baltimore. By the Morrill Act of 1890, the Academy received federal funds and was renamed the Princess Anne Academy. This funding created a relationship with the then Maryland Agricultural College, although the campus continued to be a part of Morgan College, College level work began at Princess Anne in 1927. The State authorized purchase of the Academy in 1935 (Chapter 548, Acts of 1935) and, in 1936, Princess Anne Academy became part of the University of Maryland, bearing the name of Maryland State College from 1948 until 1970. In 1970, the College was renamed University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is the research doctoral-granting institution on the Eastern Shore and the land-grant campus of the State. Instruction, research and service are provided through major academic clusters. These clusters include liberal arts and sciences, agriculture, business, engineering and technology, education, marine and environmental sciences, allied health, hospitality, and special academic services. Degrees are offered in thirty-two bachelor, seven masters, and two doctoral programs. Some distinctive bachelor degree programs are Agribusiness, Airway Science, Construction Management, Criminal Justice, Engineering Technology, Environmental Science, Hotel and Restaurant Management, and Rehabilitation Services. Master degrees are offered in Agriculture and Extension Education, Applied Computer Science, Food and Agricultural Sciences, Guidance and Counseling, Physical Therapy, and Special Education. Doctoral and master degrees are granted in Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences, and Toxicology.

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